

1986

HUTTON LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
WYOMING

Administered by Arapaho NWR  
P.O. Box 457 Walden, Colorado

Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge was visited regularly by refuge personnel during the spring, summer and fall months for inspection, posting, fence maintenance, censuses and water management.

Heavy snows in the mountains added to the already high water problems from the previous year. Rising water levels during the spring finally topped the road dike between Rush Lake and Hogue Lake. The previous year water topped the dike between Hogue and Hutton Lakes. By August all three lakes were essentially one large lake as water levels were the highest they had been in many, many years. In October water levels began to recede slowly and continued to drop at freeze up. Hopefully, water levels will drop enough by next summer so that a flood damage assessment can be conducted and any repair work can begin.

YCC enrollees assisted by refuge personnel removed the existing refuge entrance sign at Hutton Lake and returned it to the Arapaho NWR shop where it was refurbished. The sign was then taken back to Hutton Lake NWR and installed along with a new decorative rock base.

In November, Refuge Manager Patten prepared a written statement for the Laramie/Albany County Planning Office regarding the proposed change of land use for the Wyolite Project in Albany County which is adjacent to Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Waterfowl production estimates for the year based on brood counts conducted in August were 603 ducks, 235 coots and 34 Canada geese. A peak population of 4,690 ducks, primarily redhead and lesser scaup, were present on the refuge at the end of March.

1985

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P.O. Box 457, Walden, Colorado

Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge was visited regularly by refuge personnel during the spring, summer and early fall months for inspection, posting, fence maintenance, censuses and water management.

A waterfowl census conducted on April 12 revealed 7,800 ducks, 1,100 ducks, 1,100 coots and 30 Canada geese present. By the end of the month only 1,100 ducks, primarily lesser scaup, remained and the water diversion from Sand Creek to Rush Lake was shut off. All lakes remained at maximum water levels for the remainder of the year.

Waterfowl production estimates for the year based on brood counts conducted in August were 595 ducks, 210 coots and 36 Canada geese.

On July 3rd, A.R.D. Marvin Plenert, Refuge Supervisor Phil Norton and Refuge Manager Patten toured Hutton Lake N.W.R. and inspected water levels and high water damage to facilities from the previous year's flood. On July 18th, Refuge Manager Patten and R.O. Engineer Marshall Fox inspected dikes and water management facilities damaged by last year's flood.